

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantzen (U.S. Patent 3,857,531) in view of Tsuyuki et al. (U.S. Patent Appln. Pub. No. 2001/0028010 [hereinafter “Tsuyuki”]).

To expedite prosecution, Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 13 to recite “wherein the reinforcing ring is a cylinder which is shorter than the cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub, and the reel hub and the reinforcing ring have shapes for holding the reinforcing ring at a top end portion of the reel hub.”

As is shown in at least the exemplary embodiment of Figure 7, a reinforcing ring 96 is attached to a reel hub 60 such that top portions thereof are engaged. As is also shown, the reinforcing ring is shorter than a cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub. These features provide aspects not disclosed by the art.

Jantzen does not disclose, teach or suggest that the applied ring 20 is a cylinder which is shorter than the cylindrical recess portion of the reel hub, and that the reel hub and the ring have shapes for holding the ring at a top end portion of the reel hub. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 13 are not anticipated by Jantzen. Likewise, claims 2-12, 14 and 15 are not anticipated by Jantzen at least by virtue of their respective dependences on claims 1 and 13.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 10/671,782

Attorney Docket No.: Q77303

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

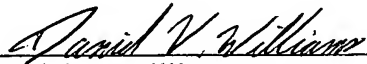
Respectfully submitted,

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